

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Elevator~~ An elevator system in tall buildings, said system comprising at least one first elevator shaft ~~(13)~~, which houses an elevator arranged to stop at floors called transfer levels ~~(8, 8a)~~, and at least one second elevator shaft ~~(14)~~, which houses elevators whose elevator cars ~~(22)~~ are disposed one above the other in the elevator shaft, which elevator cars are designed to stop during their travel at any floor to which or from which a call has been issued and that the second elevator shaft ~~(14)~~ is divided vertically into local shafts ~~(17, 18, 19)~~ situated one above the other, the number of which is at least one for each zone between transfer levels ~~(8, 8a)~~, and that the elevators in the local shafts ~~(17, 18, 19)~~ are arranged to travel one above the other in the same shaft in such manner that they have their paths in shaft spaces disposed one above the other, **characterized** in that each elevator travels between the highest and lowest floors of its own local shaft ~~(17, 18, 19)~~, and that, except for the topmost elevator, the highest floor for each elevator is the next floor below the lowest floor for the elevator immediately above it and that each transfer level ~~(8, 8a)~~ comprises an upper and a lower transfer floor so that each lower transfer floor is the highest floor for the elevator car ~~(22)~~ operating in the local shaft ~~(17,~~

~~18)~~ that arrives at it and departs from it in downward direction, and that each upper transfer floor is the lowest floor for the elevator car ~~(22)~~ operating in the local shaft ~~(18, 19)~~ that arrives at it and departs in the upward direction.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Elevator~~ The elevator system according to claim 11, **characterized** in that each local shaft ~~(17, 18, 19)~~ contains at least an elevator car ~~(22)~~ traveling in the shaft and the required elevator ropes ~~(24)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Elevator~~ The elevator system according to claim 11, **characterized** in that, in addition to the elevator car and hoisting ropes, each local shaft ~~(17, 18, 19)~~ contains an elevator machine ~~(23)~~ driving the elevator and a counterweight ~~(28)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Elevator~~ The elevator system according to claim 12, **characterized** in that the elevator car ~~(22)~~, elevator ropes ~~(24)~~ and counterweigh ~~(28)~~ in each local shaft ~~(17, 18, 19)~~ are fitted to operate within the area of their own local shaft only.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Elevator~~ The elevator system according to claim 11, **characterized** in that the elevator machine ~~(23)~~ of the

elevator operating in each local shaft ~~(17, 18, 19)~~ is mounted in the upper part of the shaft space near the upper end of the local shaft ~~(17, 18, 19)~~.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Elevator~~ The elevator system according to claim 11, **characterized** in that the elevator machine ~~(23)~~ in the local shaft ~~(17, 18, 19)~~ is mounted in the space between the elevator car ~~(22)~~ traveling in the shaft and a shaft wall.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Elevator~~ The elevator system according to claim 11, **characterized** in that each transfer level ~~(8, 8a)~~ comprises an upper and a lower transfer floor so that each lower transfer floor is the highest floor for the elevator car ~~(22)~~ operating in the local shaft ~~(17, 18)~~ that arrives at it and departs from it in downward direction, and that each upper transfer floor is the lowest floor for the elevator car ~~(22)~~ operating in the local shaft ~~(18, 19)~~ that arrives at it and departs in the upward direction.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Elevator~~ The elevator system according to claim 11, **characterized** in that the elevator shaft is provided with a supporting structure ~~(25)~~ placed between the local shafts ~~(17, 18, 19)~~ and so implemented that it forms a shaft bottom for

the elevator immediately above it and separates from each other the local shafts ~~(17, 18, 19)~~ situated one above the other.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Elevator~~ The elevator system according to claim 18, **characterized** in that the supporting structure ~~(25)~~ is so positioned between the local shafts ~~(17, 18, 19)~~ situated one above the other that, when the elevator car ~~(22)~~ is at its highest position, a free space of sufficient height between the supporting structure and the elevator car ~~(22)~~ remains in the upper part of the lower shaft, and that when the elevator car ~~(22)~~ is at its lowest position, a free space of sufficient height between the supporting structure and the elevator car ~~(22)~~ remains in the lower part of the upper shaft.